



RECEIVED

FEB 25 2000

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste

Comment Sheet

Name: Jimmy VAUGHAN

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2719.PAHRUMP NV. Zip: 89041Telephone number (optional): (775) 727-6257 (W) 775.727.1713 (H.)

I request that these comments be made a part of the official record.

1 AS. UNITED STATES BELONGS TO AN ORGANIZATION
CALLED OECD, AND THERE CONSENSUS WAS
REAFIRMED IN 1995 THAT NUCLEAR WASTE IS
TO BE "FINAL DISPOSAL" (QUOTED & COPY ATTACHED.)
THAN WHY IS UNITED STATES TRYING TO BURY IT
IN YUCCA MOUNTAIN.

2 THERE IS A BETTER WAY - READ PAPERS
ATTACHED.

THANK YOU

Please note: For your comment(s) to be considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, your comment(s) need to be received by the Department of Energy by February 9, 2000. To the extent practicable the Department will consider comments received after February 9.

The Act directed the Department to study the need for and feasibility of a monitored retrievable storage facility for the purpose of storing nuclear waste on an interim basis prior to disposing of it permanently in an underground repository, and to submit to Congress a site-specific proposal for such a facility. It also required the Federal Government to transport spent nuclear fuel to a Federal storage facility, utilizing private industry to the fullest extent possible.

Site Characterization Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982

In 1983, the Department selected 9 candidate repository sites for the first repository: Vacherie Dome, Louisiana (salt dome); Cypress Dome, Mississippi (salt dome); Richton Dome, Mississippi (salt dome); Yucca Mountain, Nevada (tuff); Deaf Smith County, Texas (bedded salt); Swisher County, Texas (bedded salt); Davis Canyon, Utah (bedded salt); Lavender Canyon, Utah (bedded salt); and the Hanford Site, Washington (basalt flows). In 1994, Draft Environmental Assessments to support the proposed nomination of 5 sites and the recommendation of 3 sites for characterization were issued for all 9 sites.

In 1986, the Secretary nominated 5 sites as suitable for characterization for the first repository, and recommended 3 of the sites to the President for approval for site characterization. The President approved the sites: Yucca Mountain, Nevada; Deaf Smith County, Texas; and the Hanford Site, Washington. The Department concluded that this particular order of preference provided the maximum diversity of geohydrologic settings and rock types. This site selection process is illustrated in *Figure 16*.

In 1985, the Department also began crystalline rock investigations to identify sites for a second repository. In 1986, the Secretary recommended 12 potential areas in 7 States for the second repository, but postponed site-specific work for the second repository due to cost savings and decreases in the estimates of spent nuclear fuel requiring disposal.

International Consensus on Geologic Disposal

In parallel with the evolution of United States policy, geologic disposal also emerged as the international community's consensus strategy for managing the permanent disposal of highly radioactive waste.

In 1985, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, an international organization of 23 countries (including the United States) cooperating in the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, reported a high degree of confidence worldwide that disposal systems in deep geologic structures can be designed and operated safely to assure long-term isolation of spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste. In

1995, the Nuclear Energy Agency reaffirmed the international consensus in its report, *The Environmental and Ethical Basis of Geologic Disposal: A Collective Opinion of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee of the OECD*. The Agency asserted that, "[O]ur responsibilities to future generations are better discharged by a strategy of final disposal than by reliance on stores which require surveillance, bequeath long-term responsibilities of care, and may in due course be neglected by future societies whose structural stability should not be presumed."

EIS001716



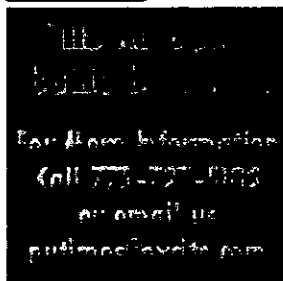
Wednesday

- [Home Page](#)
- [Local News](#)
- [Community View Point](#)

- [Letters](#)
- [Local Sports](#)
- [Obituary](#)
- [Announcement](#)
- [Business PR](#)
- [Feature](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Guest Opinion](#)
- [Community Calendar](#)
- [Community Website](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Guestbook](#)
- [Staff Contact Info](#)

Quick Find

GO!

Shopping & Business Directory Search

- [Favorite Sites](#)
- [Financial Info](#)
- [For Fun](#)
- [For Kids](#)
- [For Seniors](#)
- [For Teens](#)
- [Health](#)
- [News Sites](#)
- [Search Engines](#)
- [Sports Sites](#)



Weather



Classifieds



Coupons



Subscribe



MOUNTAIN VIEW CASINO
 Casino • Restaurant • Bowling Center • Bingo
CONVENTION CENTER NOW OPEN
 1750 Pahrump Valley Blvd. • 775-727-7777

Vaughan touts plan for disposal of nuke waste

Friday, January 28, 2000

Henry Brean

Local resident Jimmy Vaughan believes he has come up with the solution to the whole nuclear waste problem, and it has nothing to do with Yucca Mountain.

Although he is still reluctant to reveal many specifics, Vaughan, who owns J.V. Industries in Pahrump, says he has come up with a

design for a container and process through which spent nuclear fuel can either be stored for possible future use or disposed of permanently.

And he isn't just talking about his ideas, either.

Last February, Vaughan applied for a patent on his "whole concept" — something he expects to receive in the next month or two. And last week, he took part in what he hopes to be the first of many meetings with the Nevada Test Site Development Corporation and the U.S. Department of Energy.



Jimmy Vaughan of Pahrump believes he has a solution to the problem of disposing of high-level nuclear waste. (PVT photo by Henry Brean)

"It was quite positive," Vaughan said of the meeting. He added, however, that he does not expect his idea to gain acceptance right away. "Don't forget," he said, "it took the Catholic Church 500 years to tell us the Earth was round, not flat."

Essentially, Vaughan's "process" involves placing high-level waste in his specially designed, "flexible" containers and carrying it into space on the space shuttle or the unmanned VentureStar spacecraft, which is under development as a possible replacement for the shuttle. From there the containers will be placed in orbit, where they can be retrieved, or be disposed of by being fired into deep space or into the sun.

Fearing the idea may be stolen from him, Vaughan said he will not release any specific details about the process or the make-up of his container until he receives his patent.

Vaughan's Jan. 11 meeting with NTS Development in Las Vegas lasted about two hours and involved the corporation's president, Tim Carlson, and vice president, George Ormiston, as well as a representative from DOE. Accompanying Vaughan as a "witness" was fellow Pahrump resident Chuck Patti, who Vaughan said will be in charge of developing his containers should the patent be approved and the government buy into his idea.

"They showed some interest in what Jimmy was proposing," Patti said of those with whom he and Vaughan met.

Ormiston was a bit more noncommittal. "We've taken his concept under advisement and we're reviewing it as a corporation," he said. "We're in the introductory phase. As best we can tell, it is a very unique concept, but we've got some due diligence to perform."

He added in addition to the many technical questions that remain, Vaughan's idea may be impacted by a number of federal laws governing waste management.

Ormiston said officials from NTS Development will discuss Vaughan's idea and get back to him within the next two to four weeks.

Vaughan said he is willing to wait, but not forever. "I don't think nuclear waste should be buried unattended. Anyone who thinks it's safe should have it buried in their backyard," he said. "Do you want it in your backyard? Nobody does. That's the reason we need another plan."

He added that since the meeting, he has discovered that nuclear waste "is a worldwide problem." The issue is particularly volatile in Russia, where nuclear material is piling up and hundreds of millions of dollars

- [Shopping and Business Directory](#)
- [Search Listings](#)
- [Merchants Online](#)

2
(cont'd.)

- [Update a Business Listing \[480K\]](#)
- [Discount Coupon Sales](#)
- [Update Your Coupon\(s\)](#)

[Make This Site Your Home Page!](#)

have been spent with almost no effect, he said.

Vaughan believes his process will rid the world of not only high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, but also low-level waste, chemical waste and whatever else mankind may want to dispose of.

Patti, meanwhile, envisions a day when a use will be found for the spent nuclear fuel now considered to be the most hazardous waste in the world. And that is why he believes the ability to retrieve the containers will prove crucial in selling Vaughan's plan. "That nuclear stuff is detrimental to man's health," he said. "But I don't like the word waste."

"It's not waste," Vaughan explained, "if it can eventually be reused."

Although there appear to be a large number of potential technical problems — or at least unanswered questions — concerning Vaughan's "process," he said the biggest threat to his idea is a political one. "My idea is going to leave an awfully big hole in Yucca Mountain with nothing in it. That won't make (the politicians) very happy, unless they can store political paperwork in there."

Patti added that any idea that renders the Yucca Mountain Project obsolete will be resisted because of the number of people the project currently employs.

Vaughan and Patti also expect to come up against those who dismiss the idea because it does not come from some scientist with millions of dollars in taxpayer money at his disposal. "There are a vast majority of people who will think this man is a nut," Patti said of Vaughan. "They thought the same thing about Galileo and Columbus. That's to be expected in the beginning."

Vaughan already owns four U.S. patents, although not on anything nearly as complex as what he is now working on. His current patents are for parts used in the construction industry, including a beam sleeve and an imbedded pipe hanger. Those products are manufactured at J.V. Industries' shop on Fehrs Way.

Should his waste disposal idea get off the ground, so to speak, Vaughan said he would like to see as much of the work related to it — namely the fabrication of the containers — done in Pahrump.

[[Return to the Archived Local News page](#)]

[[View the Current Local News page](#)]
